

NFI FUTURE LEADERS CLASS OF 2024



Billy Adams

Global Director, Food Safety Americold Logistics



Billy Adams has been with Americold for the last 10 years. He has over 25 years of experience in the food and beverage industry across Research & Development and Operations roles.

Billy holds a B.S. in Biology from Georgia Southern University and an MBA from Augusta State University. He and his wife, Brenda, have three adult children and live in the beautiful Lake Oconee area in Georgia. They spend as much time as possible on the lake and Billy is a competitive pickleball player.

If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough.
- Mario Andretti



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Matthew Andrade

Vice President of Sales Ice Cube Cold Storage & Logistics



Matt Andrade has been with Ice Cube Cold Storage & Logistics since 2020. Prior to joining Ice Cube, he was in a Director of Operations role with several biotechnology companies over the past 20 years.

Matt received his bachelor's in Business Administration degree from the University of Nottingham, England and his bachelor's of Science from the University of Massachusetts. He has two children and lives in Southeastern Massachusetts. Matt enjoys being outdoors fishing & hunting, spending time with his family and watching his sons play hockey.

"Vision is easy, Ideas are even easier. It's execution that separates the amateurs from the pros"

– Blaine Hogan



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Kayla Ballve

Inside Sales Representative Clearwater Seafoods



Kayla Ballve has been with Clearwater for nine months. She has seven years experience in the food service industry.

Kayla is a recent graduate of Virginia Tech, Go Hokies! She lives in Northern Virginia surrounded by friends and family. She enjoys traveling, being active outdoors, and attending concerts and EDM shows.

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."

– David Bowie



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Max Bialick

Vice President Eddie M's Seafood



Max Bialick began his career in the seafood industry in 2016 at American Fish & Seafood. His primary responsibilities were in sourcing and buying, and while also participating in leadership across the company. He joined Eddie M's in the fall of 2023 after the company was acquired by Eddie M's.

Max received his bachelor's and MBA from the University of Rhode Island, and focused on marketing and supply chain. He was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN, where he currently resides.

Be yourself, everyone else is already taken.
– Oscar Wilde



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Mitchell Bloom

Sales Eastern Fish Company



Mitchell Bloom has been with Eastern Fish since July 2022.

Mitchell received his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami. Born & raised in NJ, he currently lives in New York City. Mitchell enjoys sports, spending time with his family and his dogs!

"The greatest victory is that which requires no battle."
– Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*



Future Leaders Class of 2024

David Bluhm

Strategic Sourcing Manager Slade Gorton & Co.



David Bluhm is a Strategic Sourcing Manager with Slade Gorton & Co. His focus is sourcing groundfish overseas and domestically. David has twenty years experience in fresh, frozen, and value-added seafood operations holding roles in procurement, sales, operations, quality and regulatory.

David, his wife Christie and their three sons (Noah 13, Ben 12, and Max 9) live in the suburbs of Boston. When he is not at a field, rink or gym watching his boys play, David can be found on the pickleball courts, or the beach in Gloucester.

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

— Mahatma Gandhi



Future Leaders Class of 2024

James Braddy

**Senior Outside Sales Associate
Fortune Fish & Gourmet**



James Braddy has been a sales representative with Fortune International since 2002. Prior to Fortune, he spent time as a culinary professional while attending art school.

James lives in Chicago with his wife and twin girls. He enjoys time with family, cooking, gardening, making art, and playing soccer!

"Be yourself!"



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Drew Breece

Fresh Seafood Purchaser Catanesse Classic Seafood



Drew Breece has been in purchasing at Catanesse for a year. He previously worked as a salesmen for the Catanesse team before departing to take on a Director of Operations role for a family farms retail and restaurant ventures. He worked as a chef in Cleveland and Chicago from age 15-29 and still loves to cook.

Drew is a musician and spends much of his time in his home recording studio jamming. He is an avid Cle sports fan and loves his family. Especially his nieces, Eden and Jade.

“In order to change the world, you have to get your head together first.”

– Jimi Hendrix



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Faith Cunha

Procurement Category Specialist Blount Fine Foods



Faith has been with Blount since 2021, where she started as an intern and worked her way up. Prior to Blount, she worked in the hospitality industry while finishing school.

Faith received her bachelor's degree from UMass Dartmouth. She lives in Massachusetts with her two dogs. Faith enjoys staying active through hiking, kayaking, and hot yoga.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."
– Peter Drucker



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Joseph Dezzutti

Purchasing Manager Seattle Fish Company



Joseph Dezzutti joined Seattle Fish Company in Dec of 2024. Prior to joining Seattle, he was a produce buyer with FreshPoint Produce and served as an Executive Chef for 15 years.

Joseph received his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and MBA from the University of Wisconsin. Joseph resides in Parker, CO with his wife Corrinne and his two young boys, Dante and Luca.

Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans.
– Allen Saunders



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Shawn DuBose

**National Sales Representative
Lund's Fisheries, Inc.**



Shawn DuBose has been with Lund's Fisheries since June of 2023. Prior to Lund's, Shawn spent a year with Tridge, four years with Bristol Seafood and six years with Handy Seafood.

Shawn spent most of his life in Mississippi, where him and his wife Zulma were both raised. They spent eight years in Louisville, KY before getting back south for the last four years in Pensacola, Florida with their three dogs and one cat. Shawn is active in flag football, enjoys poker and visiting different countries each summer.

"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, many are strong at the broken places."

- Ernest Hemingway



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Jon Lien

Seafood Commercialization Manager Cargill



Jon has been with Cargill since 2018, all while working in Cargill's seafood business. Prior to joining Cargill, he has worked in various commercial roles for General Mills and Jostens.

Jon received his bachelor's degree in Business Management from Gustavus Adolphus College. He lives in the Minneapolis area with his wife and four kids. Jon enjoys spending time with family and friends, living an active lifestyle, being outdoors and coaching his kid's athletic teams.

"If you are persistent, you will get it. If you are consistent, you will keep it."

~ Harvey Mackay



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Lorin Castiglione

Senior Seafood Market Reporter
Urner Barry



Lorin Castiglione has been analyzing seafood market drivers with Urner Barry since 2017. During this time, Lorin has also acted as marketing and events lead and co-hosts the weekly SeafoodNews video and podcast series, bringing the latest developments to a wide audience with an engaging mix of professionalism and fun.

Her academic foundation, a B.A. in Communication and Media Studies from UCONN, has underpinned a decade-long successful tenure in product development within the footwear industry where she honed her skills in both communication and commercial strategy.

Lorin is a hardworking mother of two children, residing at the Jersey Shore with her husband where it is beach season year-round, no matter the temperature.

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

- Albert Einstein



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Tomas Conde

Sr. Manager, Inventory & Imports Southstream Seafoods



Tomas Conde has been with Southstream Seafoods for 8 years. Previously Tomas worked in operations roles in Eyewear & Paintball industries.

Tomas enjoys hiking with his two dogs and wife around the Northeast. Spending summers on the beach and winters in the mountains snowboarding.

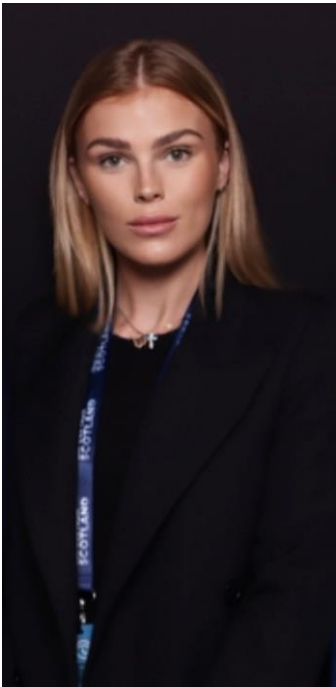
“Never listen to what people say. Just watch what they do”
– James S.A. Corey



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Bebe Davis

Head of Marketing & Promotions PanaPesca USA



Bebe has been with PanaPesca since the beginning of 2022. She previously worked in women's footwear for Sam Edelman.

Bebe holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami. In her free time, she stays active by playing tennis, golf, skiing, scuba diving and sport fishing with her Dad. Additionally, she is a multi-time national champion in the sport of dressage.

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Dylan Dowd

**VP Business & Development
Lagniappe Foods Inc.**



Dylan Dowd has been with Lagniappe Foods since 2020. Prior to joining Lagniappe, he was at a shipping brokerage specializing in ocean freight for bulk commodities.

Dylan received his Bachelor's degree in both supply chain management and operations management from University of Maryland. He currently lives in New York City where he enjoys exploring new neighborhoods and restaurants.

"If you don't believe in yourself no one will do it for you".
– Kobe Bryant



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Shannon Grady

**Sales Support & Administrative Manager
ULTCO, LLC**



Shannon Grady has been in the seafood industry since 1994 where she began working with a local distributor in Southern California. She joined her current company, ULTCO in 2019. She finds the best part of her job is the great variety of people you get to work with as colleagues, customers and suppliers.

Shannon enjoys travel, music and long walks. She currently resides in Southern California with her husband Matt and their dog, Sydney.

Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.
– Amy Poehler



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Future Leaders Class of 2024

Caitlin Hart

Vice President of Marketing Cherrystone Aqua-Farms



Caitlin has been with Cherrystone Aqua-Farms since 2018 where she acts as a resource to customers, champions the positive impacts of shellfish aquaculture, and is the creative architect for CAF's D2C initiatives. Her previous experience includes over a decade of marketing and communications work with non-profits and local government.

Graduating in 2011 from William and Mary with a BA in English, Caitlin enjoys spending time with her husband & children, being outdoors, experiencing different places and cuisine, documenting their lives via photos, and starting new home-renovation projects before finishing old ones.

"People in their right minds never take pride in their talents."
– Harper Lee *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Margaret Hancock

**VP of Partnerships and all things Seafood
Pepper**



Margaret has worked in the seafood industry for over a decade with some great NFI member companies and has a deep passion for aquaculture. Margaret joined Pepper driven by a desire to introduce much-needed ordering and sales enablement technology to our seafood distributors and suppliers.

Margaret resides in Denver and is an avid outdoorswoman. She is also a classically trained chef who enjoys cooking new recipes for friends and family.

“At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel”
- Maya Angelou



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Sean Healy

Demand Planner/Sales Analyst The Town Dock



Sean Healy has been with The Town Dock since 2018. He started at the company working on the procurement team and later transitioned to working with the sales team.

Sean received his MBA from Salve Regina University in Newport Rhode Island, where he was also a member of the baseball team. Sean enjoys golfing, cooking, spending time with his two golden retrievers and all Boston sports teams.

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

– Thomas Jefferson



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Cable Hogue

**Director of Sales – US Grocery
High Liner Foods**



Cable has been with High Liner Foods since January of 2024, leading the US Grocery business. Prior to joining High Liner, Cable Spent 11 years with Tyson Foods leading sales, and sales strategy & planning teams in both Food Service and Retail business segments.

Cable received his bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas. He and his wife, Emily, have 3 children and live in Northwest Arkansas. Cable enjoys being active and spending time outside with family.

Life is not the mountain tops, it's the walking in between
– Ben Rector



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Brett Keen

Sales Manager Lineage



Brett has been with Lineage since 2019. Prior to that, he served as Sales Manager for Preferred Freezer Services since 2014.

Brett received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Go Illini! He's the proud father of two peanuts (Jackson & Riley) and currently resides in Bergen County, NJ. Brett enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, and travelling in his spare time.

"The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."

– Marcus Aurelius



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Saif ("SAFE") Khawaja

**Founder & CEO
Shinkei Systems**



Saif Khawaja is founder and CEO of Shinkei Systems. Previously, he was a graduate researcher in HCI at Carnegie Mellon University.

Saif received his bachelors from The Wharton School and a graduate degree in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a recent transplant to LA from NYC and grew up in Canada and UAE. You can find him playing squash, fishing, or playing bass.

While we wait for life, life passes.

– Seneca



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Sebastian Korsnes

Import Logistics and Procurement Nordic Group, Inc.



Sebastian Korsnes has worked full-time at Nordic Group since 2018. While in high school and undergrad, he worked part-time at Nordic Group.

Sebastian received his BSc in Business Management from UMASS. He currently lives in Providence, Rhode Island. Sebastian enjoys camping off of his motorcycle, watching live stand-up and practicing calligraphy.

If you have everything under control, you're not going fast enough

–Mario Andretti



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Tricia Lash

Senior Key Account Manager True North Seafood



Tricia has been with True North since 2022. Prior to joining True North, she spent 19 years in Broadline Distribution, 13 of them with Sysco, holding multiple roles in Sales, Culinary, Merchandising and Sales Leadership.

Tricia graduated from Pennsylvania Culinary and cooked professionally before pivoting into distribution. Tricia lives outside Pittsburgh, PA with her amazing husband Stephen. They enjoy cooking, camping, gardening, riding their motorcycle and spending time with family and friends.

Don't look back, you're not going that way.



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Erik McCoy

Director of Sales Hofseth North America



Erik McCoy has been with Hofseth North America since 2023. Prior to Hofseth, Erik was the Director of Sales for Kent Precision Foods Group and spent the majority of his career with Sysco in various rolls including Vice President of Sales at Northstar Seafood. Erik also has experience in restaurant management working for Pappas Restaurants as a KM and GM of Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen in Atlanta and Chicago.

Erik received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Arizona. Erik and his Wife Mandi live just outside of Nashville, TN and stay very busy with their 3 kids, Jackson (16), Kate (13), and Rosie (8).

"Good things happen to those who work hard"
– K.C. McCoy



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Samantha Murphy

**Senior Associate Marketing Manager
Gorton's**



Sam joined Gorton's in 2021, working on the Strategic Growth team, before transitioning to Gorton's Established Business in 2023. Prior to that, she worked for several years in the health insurance industry.

Sam received her MBA at Bentley University, and her bachelor's degree at Connecticut College. She lives in Salem, Massachusetts with her husband, and enjoys staying active, exploring parks and beaches around New England, and spending time with family and friends.

"Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time."

- George Bernard Shaw



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Max Nudelman

National Account Manager Rich Products



Max Nudelman has been with Rich Products since 2016. Prior to joining Rich Products, he worked in banking & financial services.

Max received his bachelor's degree from Ashland University. He and his wife Jessica live in Georgia with their 5-year-old son Landon and three-year-old daughter Peyton. Max enjoys spending days by the pool with his friends and family and playing soccer.

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take
– Wayne Gretzky



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Hiroyuki Onitsuka

**Sales Manager
UniSea, Inc.**



Hiroyuki has been with UniSea since 2019. When first joining he was in charge of Surimi and Pollock Roe sales. He is now in charge of Pollock Fillet, Cod and Crab sales.

Hiroyuki was born and raised in Washington and received his bachelor's degree from University of Washington. He spends most of his time either in Dutch Harbor, Alaska or traveling.

To me there are three things everyone should do every day. Number one is laugh. Number two is think -- spend some time in thought. Number three, you should have your emotions move you to tears. If you laugh, think and cry, that's a heck of a day.

– Jim Valvano



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Future Leaders Class of 2024

Cameron Perkins

Marketing Coordinator Diversified Communications



Cameron is a Marketing Coordinator for the Seafood Group at Diversified Communications in Portland, ME. He works directly on the two largest seafood trade events for the North American and global markets: Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America in Boston and Seafood Expo Global/Seafood Processing Global in Barcelona, Spain.

Cameron graduated from Troy University in 2018 with a BS in International Business with a concentration in Marketing. While working full-time, Cameron is also currently enrolled as a graduate student at Northeastern University, studying Project Management with a concentration in Organizational Communication. Between school and work, Cameron finds balance in hobbies like golf, exercise, snowboarding, the beach, and cooking.

The road to success is always under construction
– Arnold Palmer



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Jordi Powell

Buyer

J.J. McDonnell & Co.



Jordi Powell has been purchasing for J.J. McDonnell & Co. for four years. Prior to that, she worked in processing and customer service after having been a chef and manager in restaurants for several years.

Jordi received her bachelor's from Towson University and will finish her master's this spring. Jordi lives with her husband and two boys in Columbia, MD, where she enjoys cooking and baking with the kids.

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.
– H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Iram Rhoads

Transportation Department Lead Los Angeles Cold Storage



After majoring in transportation and logistics, Iram has been working in the transportation industry for over 15 years. She has been in current role as Department Lead for L.A. Qwik Serve Transportation for over seven years.

Iram lives in Los Angeles, CA with her daughter Zayna. They enjoy traveling and trying new cuisines. She also minored in photographic arts from SDCC. She is an avid lover of photography, black and white film is her medium.

"The mind is like water. When it's turbulent, it's difficult to see. When it's calm, everything becomes clear."

– Prasad Mahes



Future Leaders Class of 2024

AJ Rial

Foodservice Sales Aqua Star



AJ Rial has been with Aqua Star since June 2023. Prior to joining Aqua star, he was an active duty Officer in the United States Marine Corps.

AJ received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He and his wife Morgan live in Fall City, Washington. AJ enjoys golfing, weight-lifting, and spending time with his family.

"To be successful you don't need to do extraordinary things, you just need to do ordinary things extraordinarily well."

– Jim Rohn



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Matthew Rizzi

U.S. & Canada Sales Manager Blue Ocean Mariculture



Originally from the Boston area, Matthew started in the seafood industry in 2010. Prior to seafood Matthew spent most of his professional career working in the restaurant and hospitality field.

Currently residing in San Diego with his girlfriend and dog, Matthew enjoys spending his free time on the golf course, at the beach or out around town with friends. An avid cook, Matthew also loves to cook for family and friends.

"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."

-Winston Churchill



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Raul Senior

Operations and Supply Chain Manager Leroy Seafood USA, Inc.



Raul Senior has been with Leroy Seafood USA, Inc. since 2022. Prior to joining Leroy, Raul worked with Hofseth North America and Southern Fisheries LLC, where he developed his skills within various supply chain & operations roles.

Raul received his bachelor's degree from Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas, Venezuela. He and his wife Lorena live in Chicago, IL. Raul enjoys playing Golf during the weekends, when Chicago's weather permits.

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."
– Winston Churchill



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Greg Smith

Communications Director Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)



Greg has been with ASMI since June 2023. Before that, he was a special assistant to the Alaska Commissioner of Commerce and worked nine sessions in the Alaska Legislature.

Greg received his degree from Oregon State University, then returned to Alaska where he commercial fished, worked on political campaigns, and grew hydroponic basil. He loves all the things Alaska has to offer – trails, cabins, boats, hunting, fishing, and skiing.

Rule number one is, don't sweat the small stuff. Rule number two is, it's all small stuff.

- Robert Eliot



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Peter Sollecito

Senior Vice President – Property & Casualty Foa & Son



Pete Sollecito has been with Foa & Son since 2009. Prior to joining Foa he was with the Nationwide Insurance Co. where he began his insurance career.

Pete received his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware. He and his wife Janet, have two beautiful girls and live in Long Island, NY. Pete enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family.

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try one more time
- Thomas Edison



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Lindsey Stuart

**National Sales
Beaver Street Fisheries, Inc.**



Lindsey Stuart has been with BSF since 2015. Prior to joining Beaver Street, she was with Reinhart Foodservice and worked as a Chef and culinary instructor in Houston.

Lindsey received her bachelor's degree from Texas State University and Le Grand Diplôme from Le Cordon Bleu London. She and her husband, Rich, have two children, Lily (3) and Luke (1), and live in the Houston area. Lindsey enjoys being active, spending time with her family and cooking.

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

–Albert Einstein



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Damola Taylor

Food Technologist King & Prince Seafood



Damola Taylor has been with King & Prince Seafood since 2017, where she is a part of the Research & Development team.

Damola received her Bachelor's degree from Saint Peter's University and Master's degree from Alabama A&M University. Damola enjoys traveling, DIY projects, and spending time with her family.

She believed she could, so she did
– R.S. Grey



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Kierstyn Volkhardt

**Director of Operations - Domestic
Tai Foong USA, Inc.**



Kierstyn Volkhardt has been with Tai Foong since 2021. Prior to joining Tai Foong, she was with Northline Seafoods.

Kierstyn received her bachelor's degree from Penn State and her EMBA from the Quantic School of Business & Technology. She has a daughter and lives in Seattle, Washington. Kierstyn enjoys many outdoor hobbies, spending time with her family and friends.

Its not where your dreams take you, its where you take your dreams.

– Maya Angelou



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Garret Williamson

**Sales & Purchasing
Mark Foods LLC**



Garret Williamson has been with Mark Foods since 2023. Prior to joining Mark Foods, he was in sales with Arista Industries.

Garret received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. Garret and his wife have two children and live by the beach in New Jersey. Garret enjoys spending time with his family, skiing, snowmobiling, golfing & fishing.

We are what we repeatedly do
-Aristotle



Future Leaders Class of 2024

NFI Staff Liaisons



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Gerrie Thomas

Vice President for Membership & Training National Fisheries Institute



Gerrie Thomas has been with NFI since 2004. Prior to joining NFI, she was with the American Chemistry Council and served in the US Army.

Gerrie received her bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University. She and her husband Richard have two children and live in Northern Virginia. Gerrie enjoys being active, spending time with her family and watching her son play college football at JMU. Go Dukes!

Winning isn't everything it's the only thing.
– Vince Lombardi



Future Leaders Class of 2024

Morgan Bell

Director of Public Policy National Fisheries Institute



Morgan Bell has been with NFI since 2021. Prior to joining NFI, she was a fisheries and policy liaison for Congressman Seth Moulton.

Morgan received her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College (MA) and her graduate degree in global maritime affairs from The Fletcher School at Tufts University. She and her boyfriend Schuyler have two dogs and live in the Navy Yard in DC. Morgan enjoys skiing, playing tennis, traveling and spending time with her family in Gloucester, MA.

Morgan will audit the program to have a better understanding of the industry to advance NFI's advocacy efforts.

I've got a theory that if you give 100% all of the time, somehow things will work out in the end.

- Larry Bird



Future Leaders Class of 2024